



ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING REPORT 2020-2021



**Action for Children and Young People Uganda, P.O Box
1880, Masaka, info@bacyp.org, www.bacyp.org**

Fred Luyimbazi
info@bacyp.org

Annual Report 2020-2021

Introduction

The years 2020 and 2021 were unprecedented due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly impacted our operations and the communities we serve. Despite the challenges, ACYP remained committed to empowering vulnerable families economically. This report highlights the initiatives undertaken, the obstacles faced, and the resilience demonstrated during this period.

Executive Summary

Throughout 2020-2021, ACYP supported vulnerable families by boosting their businesses, enabling the start-up of income-generating activities, forming village saving and loan scheme associations, providing vocational and apprentice training to out-of-school adolescents, offering skills training to young girls, and encouraging microfinance services. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, heavily hindered these activities due to lockdowns and restrictions on gatherings.

Key Initiatives and Achievements

1. Business Boosting and Income-Generating Activities

- **Support for Existing Businesses:** We provided financial support and mentorship to 40 families through the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 to help them sustain their businesses during the pandemic. This included training on adapting business models to the new normal and leveraging digital platforms.
- **Start-Up Support:** Despite the challenges, we enabled 20 new start-ups by providing booster grants and virtual business development training. These start-ups included online retail and delivery services, which thrived during the lockdown.

2. Village Saving and Loan Scheme Associations

- **Formation of Associations:** We strengthened 8 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLA), each consisting of 30 members. These associations continued to provide a platform for members to save money and access loans, even during the pandemic.
- **Collective Savings:** Through regular savings contributions, the associations collectively saved over 25,000,000. This pool of funds was used to provide emergency loans to members for essential needs.

Testimonial: "Being part of the village savings group provided a safety net during the pandemic. I was able to take a loan to buy food and medicine for my family." - Jackie, Association Member

3. Vocational and Apprenticeship Training

- **Vocational Training Programs:** These were disrupted since measure to combat Covid-19 involved distancing which made it hard for artisans to provide apprentice. Only during lifts of restriction to movements is when 30 apprentices could access training.
- **Apprenticeship Placements:** We placed 30 adolescents under artisans during lifting of transport restriction. These will wait to complete in 2022 when it all normalizes.

4. Skills Training for Young Girls

- **Skills Workshops:** This activity was put on hold.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Helped 12 young girls to start up their own small businesses to their families' economic stability.

Testimonial: *I learned computer literacy and now work as a remote data entry clerk. I am financially independent and can support my family."*

5. Microfinance Services

- **Partnerships with Microfinance Institutions:** We partnered with local microfinance institutions to provide emergency loans to 60 families. These loans were used to cover essential needs and sustain small businesses during the pandemic.
- **Financial Literacy Training:** This activity was put on hold

Testimonial: "The emergency loan helped me keep my small kiosk running during the lockdown. The financial literacy training done on phone by ACYP volunteer was very helpful, and I have successfully managed my finances during this difficult time." - Joan, Fish monger

Impact Assessment

The initiatives, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, provided crucial support to vulnerable families. Businesses adapted to new models, village saving and loan associations offered financial safety nets, vocational training equipped adolescents with home-based skills, and microfinance services provided essential financial support.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges:

- **Lockdowns and Restrictions:** The inability to meet in person and conduct regular activities hindered our operations.
- **Digital Divide:** Limited access to digital tools and the internet posed a challenge for virtual training and meetings.
- **Economic Uncertainty:** The economic impact of the pandemic affected the profitability of businesses and the financial stability of families.

Lessons Learned:

- **Adaptability:** Adapting our programs to virtual formats and leveraging digital platforms was crucial for continuity.
- **Community Resilience:** The resilience and adaptability of the community were key to overcoming challenges.

- **Importance of Digital Literacy:** The pandemic highlighted the importance of digital literacy and access to technology.

Future Goals

In 2022, we aim to:

- Expand our support to 80 additional families.
- Increase the number of virtual and in-person vocational training programs.
- Strengthen digital literacy initiatives.
- Enhance monitoring and evaluation processes to better measure impact.

Conclusion

We are grateful for the support from our donors, which has been instrumental in achieving our goals during these challenging times. We look forward to continued collaboration to empower more families and foster sustainable economic growth in our community.

Prepared by

Luyimbazi Fred

info@bacyp.org